

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 17, 2007 - 5:00 p.m.
Room 402 City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Robert Powless, Donna Ennis, Warner Wirta, Tony LaDeaux, Ricky DeFoe, Michele Gordon, Beatrice Kitto

EXCUSED ABSENT: Joy Dorscher, John Day, Brian Wilson

ABSENT: Mike Sayers

STAFF PRESENT: John Judd

OTHERS PRESENT: See sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Motion by Dr. Powless, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the agenda, with two additions. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 20, 2007 MEETING:

Motion by Dr. Powless, seconded by Ricky DeFoe, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2007 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM/OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Michelle Robertson introduced the idea of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues-Millennium Development Goals. It will be presented at the St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion of the results of the Commission's August 23rd Feast and Forum –

The space was humid and the acoustics were bad. Dr. Powless wants to publicly thank Melanie Ford for attending with her staff.

Report on the Indian Center / Housing Project -

Wylma Minkinen had an application for the Housing Investment Fund. Dr. Powless and Tony LaDeaux will attend the City Council meeting to speak on behalf of the DAIC.

Other Sub-Committee Reports –

A letter to Ken Bergeron's boss regarding Tony LaDeaux's position on the Civilian Review Board was submitted to the DAIC for approval.

Motion by Warner Wirta, seconded by Rickey DeFoe, to send a certified letter. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:**Implementation team for the Heading Home St. Louis County Plan –**

A press conference was held last Friday at The Salvation Army to kick off the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Review of City Council resolution regarding Housing Investment Fund Recommendations - See above**Response from Bob Grytdahl, City Human Rights officer, regarding diversity efforts of the City Police department hiring practices –**

Beatrice Kitto does not believe this is a very diverse staff. Ricky DeFoe is also concerned about the lack of diversity of the Duluth Police Department. Warner Wirta is concerned about racial profiling in the community. John Day was impressed that Grytdahl responded to DAIC questions about diversity.

Warner Wirta would like an update on the status of unsolved murders in the area

In February the Police Chief said he was close to solving Trina Langenbrenner's murder. John Judd will ask the Chief for an update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Dr. Powless: The College of St. Scholastica has an exciting Indian education program. He would like to see a long range mission for the DAIC.

John Judd: Brian Wilson has formally resigned from the DAIC.

Warner Wirta: A Civil Rights forum is being held in Hinckley on September 29, 2007.

Ricky DeFoe: Employment situation on Fond du Lac (FDL) Reservation is poor. Band members are not treated fairly. A Feast for Women will be held on Thursday at 5:00 at Damiano.

Bea Kitto: FDL elders are interested in the barrels in Lake Superior.

NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:

October 15, 2007, Room 402 of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:40 p.m.